Las Cruces, NM – Today, Congressman Harry Teague announced funding to enhance renewable energy projects at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces. The grant, awarded by the Department of Energy, will fund two research initiatives looking to expand biofuel resources and incorporate alternative energy resources in to current utility systems. The grant comes as Teague announced he will be hosting a Biofuel Opportunities Open House in Las Cruces next week.

“Investing in the renewable energy industry will strengthen the local economy and create thousands of new jobs for New Mexicans. As we discover new, innovative ways to utilize alternative energies to power our nation, we reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce our carbon footprint,” Harry Teague said. “An important part of my ’Do it all and do it in New Mexico’ approach to energy independence involves partnering with research initiatives at local universities to expand our alternative energy and biofuel resources and technology.”

The $750,000 in funding will be implemented as a continuing three-year contract to develop the new projects at NMSU. The two-pronged contract includes an initiative to develop designs and prototypes of a renewable energy based micro-grid in an electric distribution system, as well as a program to demonstrate the feasibility of producing biofuels from non-food biomass feed stocks.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed Harry Teague’s bipartisan Algae-based Renewable Fuel Promotion Act that aims to promote algal biofuel production and grow the renewable energy industry in New Mexico. The legislation seeks to make algae-based biofuels eligible for the same tax incentives available for cellulosic biofuels by expanding the definition cellulosic biofuel to include algae for the cellulosic biofuel producer credit and the bonus depreciation allowance for cellulosic biofuel plant property. It now await consideration in the

Senate.

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